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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/281,164	03/30/1999	KATSUHIKO NAGATA	1232-4527	6886

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NEW YORK, NY 10154

EXAMINER

TRAN, NHAN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/281,164

Applicant(s)

NAGATA ET AL.

Examiner

Nhan T. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address.--

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 24 March 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 3/24/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. On pages 3 and 4 of the Applicant's Amendment, the Applicant asserts that the Mabuchi reference indicates the interface of the camera being identical to the interface of the lens in col. 12, lines 58-61 and concludes that Mabuchi fails to disclose: "...a switching circuit that switches an electrical interface in said lens device to be adaptable to said camera, wherein the electrical interface of said camera is not identical to said electrical interface in said lens device."

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. The "electrical interface" as claimed in the present application is a broad term, in which the electrical interface may include the communication between two devices through the number of communication words (word length), bytes, etc...Moreover, as shown by Mabuchi in Fig. 1(b), col. 4, lines 21-39 & col. 16, lines 50-56 & col. 17, lines 14-16, it is clear that the electrical interface of the camera assembly B (containing only AE function) is not identical to the electrical interface in the lens assembly C (containing AF, AE and AZ functions), in which the electrical interface between the camera assembly B and the lens assembly C is represented by the number of communication words being six. Therefore, Mabuchi reference anticipates the claimed invention of the present application.

In view of the above, the Examiner believes that the broadest interpretation of the present claimed invention does, in fact, read on the cited references at least for the reasons discussed above and as stated in the following Office Action.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 19 – 22 & 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mabuchi et al (US 5,485,208).

Regarding claim 19, Mabuchi discloses a lens device comprising:

an interface circuit that makes the lens device capable of communicating a signal with a camera having an electrical interface (see Figs. 1(b), 9, 12 & 13);

wherein the interface circuit comprises a switching circuit that switches an electrical interface in the lens device to be adaptable to the camera, wherein the electrical interface of the camera (i.e., camera assembly B) is not identical to the electrical interface in the lens device (i.e., lens assembly C) as shown in Fig. 1(b); col. 16, lines 50-56; col. 17, lines 14-16. It is noted that the lens assembly C is able to communicate (switch) to both camera assembly A and camera

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assembly B, wherein the electrical interface of the camera assembly B consists of the electrical interface of only AE function (corresponding to word length of six), which is different from the electrical interface of the lens assembly C of AF, AE and AZ functions (corresponding to word length of fourteen).

Regarding claim 20, Mabuchi further discloses a camera information setting circuit that outputs, to the interface circuit, information regarding the electrical interface of the camera (see col. 17, lines 14-16 & lines 31-37, wherein the number of communication words for providing control is six which presents the information regarding the electrical interface (for AE function) of the camera).

Regarding claim 21, the interface circuit comprises a conversion circuit that converts a signal transmitted (word length change) from the camera to a signal compatible with signal handling by the lens device (see col. 17, lines 46-50).

Regarding claim 22, the interface circuit comprises a conversion circuit that converts the signal transmitted from the lens device (lens assembly C) to a signal compatible with signal handling by the camera (see col. 17, lines 14-16 & lines 31-38, in which the number of communication words is six for the camera assembly B, and the signal content is AE instead of AF, AE and AZ).

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Regarding claim 24, Mabuchi shows a television camera system comprising a lens device a camera connected to the lens device (see col. 25, lines 44-49).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mabuchi et al. (Us 5,485,208) in view of Kawasaki et al. (US 5,068,680).

Regarding claim 23, Mabuchi does not explicitly disclose that the camera information setting circuit allows for manual designation of the information regarding the electrical interface of the camera. However, Kawasaki teaches interchangeable lens having a setting operation member by switching the electrical contact 79a, 79b and 81 to control data transmitted between the lens and camera for selecting either automatic or manual exposure mode (see col. 10, lines 56-65).

It would enhance the lens device by enabling the operation member as taught by Kawasaki to control data transmitted between the lens and camera for selecting either automatic or manual exposure mode.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Mabuchi with Kawasaki to provide a manual control over data transmitted between the lens and camera for changing over between automatic or manual exposure mode.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 605-4246. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00am - 6:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew B Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

NT.

May 22, 2003



ANDREW CHRISTENSEN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600